Dear Gunnar, 8/23/90

You apologize for the length of your letter. I fear the reply will be longer. And disconnected because it will be interrupted. And because of some the things I'll be saying I begin with an explanation. I believe that for all its many defects, defects that each administration is able to magnify when it takes office, our system is the best self-government man has yet devised. One of its needs is for the people to be well and fully informed, as for years they have not been, so they can make their will known. I believe also that the assassination of any president has the effect of a coup d'etat, and while I have no objection to the presentation of theories on any subject, I have strong objection on this subject for theories to be presented to the people as facts. The JFK assassination turned the whole world around in turning our own country around. I wish I had time to go into this but I do not. I once planned a book on it. And did the research for it.

As to a degree you have seen, I do take time and go to some trouble, even at 77, in impaired health and limited in what I can do, in an effort to help others. I believe that the Freedom of Information Act in effect made me surrogate for the people and I try to meet that obligation. Anyone has access to the records I got by those many lawsuits, without cost, although the costs were considerable for me, and this includes copies.

This leads me to that prize son-of-a-bitch John Davis and his Mafia Kingfish. Although I knew I would disagree with what he was writing I told him he was welcome to free access but that I could not do the searching for him. At his request I got a bright college student to do the work for him. She spent all her free times for more than a semester getting what he wanted. I did not even look at it. Alas, because it included only copies of some of my correspondence. In return, and if you have the hardback you can see this for yourself, when he needed to have some basis for alleging what was completely false, Marcello's interest in the FBI's records on himself, Davis made up a gross and defamatory lie, that for much of a year he had his lawyer (described elsewhere in the book as the top mafia lawyer when in fact he was one of the finest immigration lawyers without any mafia connection) rummaging through my files. He was never here. We never, ever, laid eyes on each other. And it took considerable time and effort to get that removed from the paperback. Do you need anything else on Davis? Well, there is no credibility to what he has about the assassination. He uses records that not only have no support at all, single-source information that the sources could not back up- he even withholds what refutes them in some instances and discloses them to be liars in other instances. Becker, for example, was an FBI informer. Davis suppresses that. When he left the meeting with Marcello that Davis reports, he went to the FBI. I have that FBI record. Becker did not say a word about what Davis uses and Becker clearly made up later.

As you know, the reader is the writer's captive, and on this subject the average reader cannot escape that captivity. As with Davis, with just about all the others. In my belief the only other dependable authors are Sylvia Meagher, Accessories after the Fact, and Howard Roffman, Presumed Guilty. Both are excellent. The others add nothing but error when they are of any use at all or confabulate between fact and theory, truth and fiction. And in most cases you'll not be able to judge. But if you continue reading in the field you'll see soon enough the sources of most, generally uncredited. (Both books out of print, alas.

You ask about Oswald In New Orleans. It is very scarce and if you can get one it will be a good investment because it is popular. It was also a publishing disaster because the publisher was distributed by Pocket Books and they would not touch the subject. As a result, there was no distribution and expecting his disaster the publisher didn't even pick up the errors we caught and called to his attention. However, - do not think it will be of much help to you. It relates to what the title says and was done before I saw Garrison. I added a chapter, Shadow of a Happy Ending, and I regret to say it remains only a shadow. Don't believe a word Garrison says without firm confirmation and don t waste a penny on his most recent book. Or any of them if you intend to do more than read, intend to use what he says, or depend on it.

Ricky White is a liar and a monster. There is not a word of truth in what he says as it relates to the assassination. I've looked into it and I have the proof that he lies. His father was in the Marines at the same time Oswald was and they went to Japan on the same ship, but they did not serve together. The father was a mechanic in a motor pool and Oswald was a radar operator in a different place. The mother did work for Ruby, but that means nothing except as it speaks about the mother. Her work for Ruby was brief. I've found that he plagiarized some of his made-up plot from three books where what he stole in unique in those books and can have no other source. They did not live across the street from the Tippits, as the simplest checking would have shown. I used the phone book. The pictures he did have were stolen from the police, and the father, a photographer, was far from alone in doing that. He was not killed by the CIA but in a fire caused by hazardous materials. The mother and the son each sued and each collected from the manufacturer! Again I could give you much more if you want it.

I would appreciate a copy of the full-page article and any others you see even though I'll not be able to read them. This is because I've already given all I have to a fine local college, which will forever make it available, for a public archive. It is a woman's college and students have been using these materials for years. They already have thousands of copies relating to the King assassination and all I had on the CIA's mind-bending work.

Your supposition about what was in Katzenbach's mind is quite reasonable but not correct. He and Hoover did not get along and in the end Hoover forced him to resign. He took a job of lower rank in the State Department to get away from Hoover. Hoover hated him even more because he told the Warren Commission at its first executive session that while Hoover pretended to be leaving no stone unturned (a favorite Hoover and thus FBI cliche) in fact the leaking could have been by the FBI only. This leaking boxed the Commission is, as it confessed shortly thereafter, in the executive session transcript in Post Mortem, pp 475ff. Suggest you read it as soon as you can for understanding of what did and did not thereafter happen. * see p. 5

I think I sent you a DJ file copy, which I got much later. I first got, about 1978, an FBI copy. I also have the holograph. I do not know but I believe that Katzenbach wrote it out as soon as Oswald was killed and had it typed and distributed the next morning. I do not know why K. did this but I believe it was because like just about all of them he wanted the whole thing wiped out immediately, without any investigation that could disclose any conspiracy. Two days after the assassination, obviously, there had been nothing that could be called an investigation. While this is the most forthright expression of it, I have other similar reflections in FBI records, headquarters and field office.

The way the FBI works it was not necessary to lay the line down to the field agents. They knew what was - and what was not- wanted of them and did it. Survival. The first law was and probably still is, Cover the Bureau's ass. The second is cover your own. This does not apply only to the FBI.

That memo is the origin of the Commission. Knowing the truth, the FBI spread the canard that the idea originated with the Communist Party as widely as it could.

The name of the FBI's game is "control". Thus you'll see in the damage control tickler I sent you the FBI's ways of controlling the Commission included investigating the members and the staff and preventing the appointment as general counsel of a DJ lawyer the FBI did not like because he was not its rubber-stamp and insisted on honesty and real evidence in criminal cases.

There was very little use of the memo in the media and none since first use that I know of. Not unusual here, such is the state of our press.

Underlying all, I believe, is the fact that the assassination did happen without any advance knowledge of it and without any apparent solution. Going along with this is

Hoover's self-portrait self-painted over a long lifetime, that there was no crime he could not solve. He had people thinking he was on top of everything when he wasn't. He did not want it known that such a thing could happen without his advance knowledge or that after the fact he could not solve it. The one thing unpredicatble is a lone, nut assassin. His instant vision offically adopted because nobody would stand up to him and nobody had any idea at all of what had really happened. There never was any real inesvtigation by any official body. This by the way is in general true of all the major political assassinations here. I say it without any question in the King case, which I did inesvtigate, and in the Robert Kennedy case, about which we know enough to be certain. I know less about the Malcom X case but the investigation and trials did not disclose the fact that one of his bodyguards was a police informer.

To the best of my knowledge neither Moyers not Katz. has ever been questioned about this and neither has volunteered anything about it. Katz would lie but I'd like to be able to discuss this with Moyers. However, I begin to get these records after my first thrombosis and after my last publishing.

I speak in general about the CIA. It not only volunteered nothing to the Commission, also true of the FBI, which so diretted its agents, it succeeded in directing the Commission away from what it did not wanted investigated. Nosenko is a prime example. If you look at what I added to Photographic Whitewash when I reprinted it you see what I hope you'll find adequate on this. However, this does not mean that the CIA did the job and I do not believe that it did. Self-starting, overly-decidated ideologues in or formerly in it may be a different matter.

By now its efforts at destabilizations are no longer secret if far from exposed. You refer to its efforts in Italy. Earlier, when Forrestal was the honcho, right after World War II, he handled the money with which that election was won. Without it there was a good likelihood that the Communists would have had the largest vote. I have no way of knowing that it did or did not have any involvement in the Palme case but if it did there would be no record. Again, ideologues and self-starters may be possibilites. It had the overly-dedicated and it was a haven for cold warriors.

As an example of how they preserve deniability there is the case of their engaging the mafia to kill Castro, through a foremr FBI agent, Robert Maheu, who I think also had had a CIA connection and then was Howard Hughes' chief od security. That turned into a fiasco on all sides. One of the mafioso they used was Sam Giancana. He came to believe that his girl friend, Phyllis McGuire, one of the singing sisters, was sleeping with the comedian, Dan Martin, of Rowan and Martin. So he said, in effect, to the CIA, I'm helping you so I'd like you to help me. By bugging and wiretapping to get the proof for him. They got an incompetent and he was caught in Las Vagas. For some time the whole thing was kept quiet and the bugged got off. He said if he went he'd not go alone so it was quietly wiped out and he was let go. But when it did come out the CIA had to investigate itself. What I have is on a level at which it would not dare lie because the top people had to know the truth or they all faced ruin. Only six people in the whole world knew and all six were top-level CIA. Despite the canard the CIA has been spreading, neither John nor Robert Kennedy knew anything at all about it. But the FBI later did leak this to Lyndon Johnson and it persuaded him that we were running a Murder Incorporated in the Carribbean and that there had been a conspiracy and that the CIA was part of the conspiracy. Byzantine but the actuality and again I have the records.

I also have the FBI's investigation of the Las Vegas bugging if you know any writer would could be interested. It can be made hilarious. There has been mention but the records have never been used in any legnthy article and I don't think there ever has been one.

I dontt know how things are over there but I'm trying to give you an understanding of these things and what is done with them over here. I do not know how many police agencies you have, or intelligence, but over here the FBI can often do a job on the CIA and in instances has been willing.

Making copies for colleagues is fine with me. Feel free.

You asked how I got the memo. In FOIA litigation. In all I got about a third of a million pages, mostly from the FBI but including the Department of Justice and the CIA. The most probable date is after January, 1978. I then got almost 100,000 pages at one time and I have no recollection of when I first saw the first or FBI copy. It was quite some time later when I got the DJ copies, typed and handwritten.

You ask for my general conclusions about what I described as an FBI damage control tickler. I believe it was prepared as an outline of what the FBI could be confronted with when before the Congress. It refers to what is not in the disclosed records, which means what is obvious, that the FBI hides records it alone can retrieve. and does not disclose when it should under the law. You will find it it, for example, what seems to be duplicated in what you are experiencing over there, a self-description of a non-investigation. Alex Rosen was then assistant director in charge of the General Investigative Division of the FBI. The tickler, in quotes, says he described the FBI as merely standing around with its pockets open hoping that evidence would fall in. If you or your colleagues have any questions about this document I'll try to answer them. I'm sorry it does not appear to be practical to invite you or any of the others to come and get what you'd like but you have that invitation, all of you.

I do believe that while there can be significant differences because of different political systems and cultures, in general all police agencies are much alike and follow similar methods and have similar shibboleths. In this sense you (pl) can learn much from these records.

I believe that whatever was behind it the Palme assassination also may have had the effect of a coup d'etat.

I should have explained on Ricky White that I have established a separate file on this for history and for the students who can learn much from it and this is the only reason I'd like copies of anything you can send, in any language. It is remarkable how much students can and do learn from a course in political assassinations not taught as a mystery thriller or a spy book. You'd be impressed by the questions the local students ask at the annual seminars I have at Hood College. Never a silly question.

If you think there was a CIA connection with the Palme assassination and that is why your police behaved as they did, aside from any other Swedish police or intelligence agencies that might have had some knowledge, it is possible that others in Europe might have if you have any way of getting plugged into them. They usually stand together but when they have disputes this could perhaps change.

I do not remember what I referred to that you refer to as diatribes against Oswald nor do I remember the documents you refer to that you say you want. What it may have been is about 100 pages long and I think would be of use to you (plural) and might be of interest to a college or university. It is known as CD 1 or Commission Document 1. LBJ ordered an FBI investigation before he decided to appoint the Commission and the FBI prepared a five-volume report, all CD 1. One volume is on Ruby, one on the JFK assassination and the others are appendix. It is the one on JFK that is amazing. All this supposedly definitive FBI investigation of the crime has in it I have in the last chapter I added to Whitewash (I). The index itself is revelatory. It is a diatribe against Oswald. If you'd like I can get it copied commercially in town for a third of my cost. I think it is 7¢ a page. Shipping by sea is much less than by air and takes about three weeks. You can estimate from how long it took the books to reach you. I'd have to make two trips into town but I can do that, one taking it in, one getting it back. Our actual cost on our simple machine is about 25¢ a page and it is very slow.

If I've forgotten anything, I'm sorry and ask again. Good luck with your book! I suggest that you speak to your publisher about an American publisher. There is great

here in the JFK assassination, more for the past three years than in many, many years and dubious books are selling only too well. Conspiracy is very merchantable over here all the time, too. I think that over here the subject also lends itself to subisdiary rights and the talk shows would eat it up. The Whites, for example, got extraordinary attention when common sense says they are fakes. And that is what sells books.

What you say about the Palme case will interest some college professor friends and I'll give them copies. Two are historians, one a sociologist.

What you say about the police chief's blackmail by threatening to disclose what is always referred to as sensitive secrets would interest the four of us much. We have an aspect here, invoked to suppress what is embarrassing.

In your chapter on the JFK non-investigation, remember, if I did not tell you, that I also was James Earl Ray's investigator and my investigation got him the evidentiary hearing to determine whether he'd get the trial he never had. In the end the judge held that in what was before him guilt or innocence were immaterial! I also sued the FBI for its relevant records. (In all that litigation lasted over a decade!) It is the same in that case, no real investigation and none ever intended. (think same reasons.)

Please understand why I do this in haste, for which I apologize. And I take the liberty of making a few suggestions in the hope that they might be relevant. In my work in this area, in thinking of things, including what to try and look into, I've come to believe that two initial tests are helpful. First is the matter reasonable and then, if it seems to be, is it possible. Second, where they are few dependable leads, decided on one and bulldog it to the degree you can. I've found this sometimes works well. In the JFK case, i fixed on two elements of the corpus delicti, the medical evidence and the results of the scientific testing. I do not know how applicable these may be there and I do not know what can be withheld from the press. But based on my experience, if anything like the same things obtain there, you have the most substantial reasons to question the official investigation. If you do this, do not begin with any belief that the police and prosectors do not know their business, although the latter, over here, didn't. What I found in the JFK and King cases and is also true in the Robert Kennedy case, is that the police work was absolutely disgraceful, police also meaning FBI. The FBI deceived, misled and lied and it destroyed what disputed its preconceptions, for example, the spectrographic film of the testing of the residue scraped from the curbstone where the missed shot impacted. First it claimed the spot no longer existed, although there were contemporaneous pictures showing that there was a conspicuous hole in the concrete, knwoing this, it actually took the curbstone, visibly patched to eliminate the hole-and forever bury the evidence it held, to Washington and went through the charade of making a spectrographic examination on which it began by never making any report on the results and wound up with the film in a memory hole. (Pictures in Post Mortem, ignored on publication.)

Is there any way in which you can file a civil suit and take testimony from those you think have relevant information?

Grown children of FBI and Secret Service agents came up to me when I spoke at universities and told me what they discussed at home. I did not use it but if you could find something like that perhaps you could use it. In one case the daughter of a lab agent detested her father. She told me the only use she had for him was as a baby-sitter. If I had it to do all over again I'd have spent more time with her. I might have learned more. The daughter of a Secret Service agent was in tears and I could not bring myself to ask her to spend more time with me or say what she did not volunteer.

Best wishes,
Harold

P.2, * When he was attorney general